Unclaimed deposits in banks

181. SHRI DATTA MEGHE:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that unclaimed deposits of over Rs. 900 crores are lying idle with various Nationalised Banks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that these accounts have not been operated in the last ten years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to get the accounts operated in the interest of depositors or distribute the unclaimed deposits to the families of the depositors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that, as per their records, the unclaimed deposits with various public sector banks in the country, as on December 31, 2006 were as follows:—

	Amount (Rupees in crore)
SBI Group	147.25
Nationalised Banks	794.18
Total	941.43

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) RBI has instructed banks to ensure that their branches segregate and maintain, in separate ledger(s), deposit accounts which have not been operated upon for two years. In case of accounts that have remained inoperative for one year, banks are required to advise their customers. In case the advice letter is returned undelivered, the branch is expected to enquire into the whereabouts of such customers, or about their legal heirs.

Frauds in State-owned financial institutions

182. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: